RAJYA SABHA

Friday, 5th August, 1994 14th Srawana, 1916 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Integrated Tribal Deveopment Programmes

*181. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Integrated Tribal Development Programmes (ITDP) cover only the tribal areas each having a tribal population of 3,000;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to extend these programmes to all the tribal areas irrespective of the tribal population;

(c) whether it is a fact that the tribals of Bodha hills in Salem District, Tamil Nadu are not benefited by this scheme because of population norms; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to implement this scheme in that tribal area also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDPs) are generally contiguous areas of the size of a Tehsil or Block or more in which the ST population is 50 per cent or more of the total population. In the eight States having "Scheduled Areas" the ITDPs are generally co-terminus with the Scheduled Areas. Andhra Pradesh and Orissa have adopted the Agency model and the ITDPs there are known as ITD Agencies (ITDAs).

To cover the tribals outside ITDPs, Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) has been adopted. MADAs are identified pockets of concentration of ST population containing 50 per cent or more ST population within a total population of 10,000.

For still smaller pockets of tribal concentrations "Clusters" approach has been adopted. These are identified pockets of tribal consentration containing 50 per cent or more ST population within a total population of about 5,000.

While MADAs also have separate administrative structures to implement developmental programmes, there is no separate administrative structure for "Clusters'.

The ST population left uncovered by ITDPs/MADA pockets/Clusters are covered by the programmes for "Dispersed ST Population where beneficiary-oriented anti-poverty programmes with funds available under the Tribal Sub-Plan are implemented.

There are certain communities among the STs who live in near isolation in inaccessible habitats who are characterised by a, low, rate of growth of population, pro-agricultural level of technology and low levels of literacy. These are known as Primitive Tribal Groups (PRGs). The Tribal Sub-Plan approach requires special attention to be paid to the development of PTGs and certain States have set up "Micro Projects" within or outside the ITDPs to this end.

In view of aforesaid approach the entire tribal population is covered by the strategy adopted for the development of STs.

(c) and (d) In Salem District there are five ITDPs namely, Kolli Hills, Yercaud Hill, Kalrayan Hills, Aranuthumalai and Pachamalai. According to the information furnished by Tamil Nadu Government Bodha Hills located in Rasipuram Taluk Revenue Village being Kallankulam having 3 hamlets with a total population of 3000 and tribal population of 1010 are outside ITDP

areas. According to the policy mentioned above, the tribals of Bodha Hills are not covered by ITDPs or MADA for clusters. They are, however, covered by the programme for "Dispersed ST population". The tribals of Bodha Hills are getting all the benefits like economic development, housing and other benefits under normal schemes, Dispersed Tribes Development Scheme, I.R.D.P., JRY; etc. Programmes like construction of 20 houses, opening of two Ashram Schools, distribution of sheep units, plough bulls have been sanctioned. Drinking water and Street lights have been provided. 400 ration cards have been issued. It has been further informed that sanction of more schemes for tribals during 1994-95 are under consideration under State Plan.

SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Sir, the hon. Minister belongs to that area. Unfortunately, he has denied the bnefits to the tribal people in those areas. Sir, in 1970, the then collector of Salem prepared a report sent it to the Government of India and to add the tribal areas adjacent to this Bodha Hills in the same district so that these ITDP norms could be applied to this area. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is aware of it. Otherwise whether Central the Government will ask the Tamil Nadu Government to prepare a similar plan to have the benefits under this scheme, at least to take into account the whole Salem district.

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Sir, I do agree that I belong to that district. I am happy to help that district. But, at the same time, the policy is for the whole of India and we have set some norms. As per the norms, that area does not come under its purview. That is why we have a number of other programmes apart from the ITDP. At present, the people of the Bodha Hills in Salem district are getting the benefit through the Dispersed Tribes Development Scheme. Sir, we know that the State Government has already recommended such programmes to be included in the ITDP. But, because of the policy we are not in a position to accommodate a smaller portion of areas. But, under the Tribal Sub-Plan programme, we are in a position to satisfy the ST population whether they are in small groups or in big groups. As the hon. Member mentioned that the whole Salem district should be clubed together, Sir, already in the Salem district, two or three areas are included so that the people in that area can get sufficient benefits. So, we do not want to club the whole area into one "Cluster" or ITDP at the moment.

SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Sir, the Kolli Hills extends not only to Salem district but also to Trichy district. Sir, the Central Government norms will be difficult to apply for the whole Tamil Nadu State. They are aware about the sparse population in the same hills in different parts. That is why I would like to know what benefits you are giving under the ITDP. I would like to know whether these benefits are given anywhere in Tamil Nadu. It is not possible because of the population norms. That is why I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, under the Dispersed ST population programme, which is applicable to the Tamil Nadu State which is having less population, the Government of India is prepared to give all the benefits which are given under the ITDP.

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Sir, apart from the ITDP and the Modified Area Development Approach programme and the "Clusters" programme, wherever there is a small concentration of ST population, we give them benefits under the Dispersed ST Population scheme. Sir, all the schemes are meant for the socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribe community in toto. Sir, in Tamil Nadu we have nine ITDP projects covering 283 villages in 374 blocks. About 2.10 lakh people are getting the benefits under the scheme. Wherever a small number of tribal people are living in the States, they are covered under the PTG programme and the Dispersed Tribes Development Programme. As it is, the people, particularly, the Scheduled Castes, in Tamil Nadu are getting enough protection and benefits under these schemes.

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र : सभापति जी, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि बिहार में 112 प्रखंड जन-जातीय योजना के भाग हैं। मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में बताया है कि इसकी तीन श्रेणियां हैं। पहली जहां 50 प्रतिशत से अधिक जन-जातियों की जनसंख्या और दूसरा इससे बाहर की जनजातियों को कवर करने के लिए, जिसका उन्होंने माडा नाम दिया है, योजना है और तीसरे को "कलस्टर" नाम दिया है। मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि भारत सरकार ने इसके लिए क्या कोई प्रशासन तंत्र स्थापित किया है? यह जो तीन श्रेणियां हैं, इनके जो इलाके हैं, जो आबादी है, उनकी समय समय पर समीक्षा करने के लिए, मूल्यांकन करने के लिए क्या कोई प्रशासन तंत्र है? साथ ही मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या भारत सरकार को जानकारी है कि बिहार में जो जनजातीय बाहुल्य के 112 प्रखंडों की जो योजना है, उसके लिये जो राशि रखी गयी है, क्या उसका उपयोग हुआ है या नहीं? इसके लिए जो वास्तविक राशि निर्धारित की गयी है, वह राशि उस इलाके में व्यय हुई है? भारत सरकार की मंशा जनजातीय इलाकों को ऊपर उठाने की है लेकिन जो हमारा अनुभव हाल के वर्षों का है, वह यह है कि भारत सरकार की उदासीनता की वजह से या मंत्रालय को समस्त जानकारी न रहने के कारण इन भागों की स्थिति में जो सुधार होना चाहिए था वह नहीं हो पा रहा है। क्या मंत्री जी यह बात स्वीकार करेंगे कि बिहार के जनजातीय बाहुल्य इलाकों में इसके लिए वह माहोल वह वातावरण नहीं बन पा रहा है, जो इसके लिए आवश्यक है? मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि इनको सुचारू रूप से चलाने के लिए सरकार क्या प्रभावकारी कदम उठाने जा रही है?

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Member. In Bihar, we have 14 ITD programmes, 41 MADA programmes, 7 Cluster programmes and 9 Primitive Tribal Grups Programme. Apart from this, I have already mentioned that wherever we are not able to concentrate through the ITDP, MADA and PTG programmes, we also consider the smaller areas through the Dispersed Tribes Development Scheme. For Bihar, as far as we are concerned, we used to give allocations according to the population. We also requested the State Governments to go by the same population percentage. The Scheduled Tribes today, are geting benefits under these schemes alongwith the State plan programmes. Sir, I don't have any specific instances where the tribal people in Bihar were getting into trouble. If the hon. Member gives me the details, certainly, we will talk to the State Governments and see to it that that anomaly is removed. Sir, since the Seventh Plan period till date, we have been achieving our targets covering the Scheduled Tribes and not only are we achieving the target, but we are also doing things over and above the target.

SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, tribal development is one of the important fields to which we have to pay more attenion. The overall development of tribal people includes provision of educational facilities, ensuring thtir protection and providing amenities and infrastrure to bring them out of the cocoon in which these people are living into the national mainstream. Can the Minister tell me how many graduates are there from the tribal communities of Salem district, what sort of employment has been provided to them and also whether the Government is willing mean all the voluntary organisations—to work for the welfare and benefit of the tribal communiies throughout the country?

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Sir, I don't have the exact figure of the literacy percentage of the tribal people in Salem district. In Salem district alone, we have got five hilly aeras, namely, Kolli Hills, Yercaud Hills, Kalravan Hills, Aranuaihumal and Pachayamalai. All these five areas are spread over an area of 2,000 sq. kilometres. We are covering all these areas.

With regard to educational programmes, the Government of India has given assistance to the ashram schools and special schools in the tribal areas. We have provided hostel facilities both for boys and girls because of which a good number of students are being benefited. Apart from this, to bestow educational benefits on the tribal people, we have identified 48 districts all over the country where the female literacy is below 2 per cent. In these districts, we have started an ambious programme last year and 23 schools have already been started and it is going to be a continuous process. Any developmental work certainly depends on provision of good education. Education is the main parameter for all our development activities. This is where we are concentrating and we are trying to provide the required education to the ST people at all levels.

The hon. Member has asked whether we are going to help the voluntary organisations. We are certainly going to help those organisations. We are tainly going to help those organisations. funding under our various programmes the hostels and schools being run by the voluntary organisations for the development of the ST peop'e all over the country.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, my specific question to the Minister was how many graduates were there in the Salem district belonging to tribal communities.

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Sir, I don't have the correct figures. I will collect the information and pass it on to the hon. Member.

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Sir, I must take this opportunity to congratulate the Government of India and various other State Governments for accepting the programme under the Integrated Tribal Development Programme for the upliftment and development of our tribal people. Various sub-plans and tribal plans are formulated at the State level. But it has been our experience that the amounts which are provided for these sub-plans and the tribal plans remain unutilised at the end of the year. I would like to known rom the hon. Minister the reasons for the non-implementation of these programmes and non-utilisation of these funds meant for the welfare of the tribal people. This is my first question. My second question is, what are the steps being taken by the Government of India to see that the funds given do not remain unutilised?

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Sir, as far as tribal development is concerned, we requested the State Governments to go by the percentage of the tribal population. Accordingly, tribal sub-plans are prepared and funds are allocated for the development of the tribal people. I don't have any instance where the States have not utilised the funds. If the hon. Member has any instances where the State Governments have not utilised the fund fully. I will certainly take up such matters with the concerned State Gvernments.

श्री अजीत जोगी : सभापति महोदया, आदिवासियों की और आदिवासी इलाकों की समस्यायें मैदानी इलाकों से बिल्कुल भिन्न हैं । इसको मद्देनजर रखते हुए सविधान में यह व्यवस्था की गई थी कि आदिवासी इलाकों के प्रशासन के लिए, उन क्षेत्रों के विकास के लिए शिड्यूल 5 और शिड्यूल 6 में अलग से प्रशासनिक व्यवस्था होगी । अभी तक का अनुभव यह रहा है कि शिड्यूल 6 में तो अलग से प्रशासनिक व्यवस्था हुई है किन्तु शिड्यूल 5 के जो इलाके हैं जो मेन लैंड में भारत के इलाके हैं, मध्य प्रदेश, उड़ीसा, बिहार, आन्ध्र प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, यहां शिड्यूल 5 के अतर्गत कोई अलग से व्यवस्था नहीं की गई है । इसी लिए इन क्षेत्रों का विकास उतना अच्छा नहीं हो पाया है जितना उत्तर पूर्व में हुआ है ।

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह जो मांग उठ रही है कि शिड्यूल 5 के इलाकों को शिड्यूल 6 के इलाकों के समान बना दिया जाए, वहां भी अनुसूची 6 लागू कर दी जाए, इस पर शासन विचार कर रहा है और उसे स्वीकृति देगा ?

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Sir, at the moment, as far as the States which are mentioned by my friend, Mr. Jogi, are concerned there is no discrepancy. I cannot say there is no development. Very encouraging developments are taking place in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh is one of the models as far as this is concerned. Sir, in these areas, the present structure...

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: That is not my point. I am saying that you cannot impose the same kind of administration on the tribal areas. That is what article 244 of the Constitution lays down. You cannot have the same rules and the same laws for the tribals. That is why a different kind of an administration, a different kind of a legal set-up is needed for the tribal areas.

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Sir, that is why I said the existing system is working very well; the people are getting the benefits out of the programmes Sir, the hon. Member is right that the facilities for which they are entitled as per the 6th Schedule should also come to the people. That is what the hon. Member wanted. Sir, this matter is under the serious consideration of the Government.

श्री गुंडप्पा कोरबार : मैं सरकार से जानना चाहूंगा कि कर्नाटक में एस०सी० और एस०टी० की पापूलेशन कितनी है और कौन-कौन से जिलों में उनको आइडेंटीफाई किया गया है और उनकी तरक्की के लिए कितना बजट प्राविजन रखा गया है। साथ ही साथ कर्नाटक में जो ट्राइब्ज हैं, हमने ऐसा शिकायत सुनी हैं और देखा भी है और सरकार के सामने भी लाए हैं कि जो शिड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स नहीं हैं; उस जाति में नहीं, उस जाति से कोई वास्ता नहीं रखते तब भी ऐसे लोग शिड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स का सर्टिफिकेट लेकर उसका फायदा उठा रहे हैं। क्या यह चीज सरकार की नजर में आई है, अगर आई है तो क्या कदम उठाये गए हैं ?

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Sir, whenever the problem occurs like this, tribe certificates and other things, and whenever we get such reports, we certainly ask the State Governments to immediately look into the matter and sort out the problem. If the hon. Member has anything in mind, he can give it to me and I will certainly take it up with the State Government and sort out the problem.

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Sir, in Andhra Pradesh in some of the districts, already the ITD Project Offices are there. I want to know from the Minister whether there is any proposal for opening such offices in districts other than the districts of Nalgonda, Warangal, etc., where there is tribal population. So, has any proposal to increase the ITD Project Offices in different districts come from the State Government? I want to know this from the Minister.

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Sir, at the moment, in Andhra Pradesh, there are 8 ITD Programmes, 41 MADA proposals, 17 Cluster Projects and 12 Primitive Group Projects running. There is no additional information available with me. In fact, we do not have anything pending with us at the Central Level. But as and when the State Government asks for such kind of a thing, we will certainly help them.

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: I am asking whether there is any proposal.

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: There is no proposal at the moment from the State of Andhra Pradesh, Sir.